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Date of Deposit: July 22, 2003

Our Case No. 9281/4596
Client Ref. No. N US02519

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
SAITO et al.)	Previously-Assigned Examiner:
)	B. Miller
Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned)	
)	Previously-Assigned
Filing Date: Herewith)	Group Art Unit No.:
)	2652
For: SPIN-VALVE MAGNETORESISTIVE)	
THIN FILM ELEMENT)	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

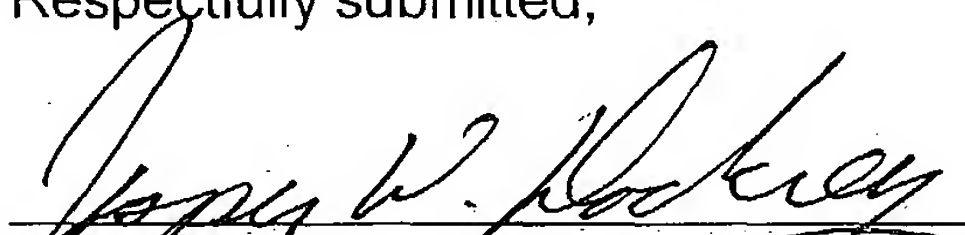
Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the obligation under 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and in conformance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97-1.99, Applicants cite the references A1-30 listed on the attached form PTO-1449 for consideration by the Examiner.

Also submitted are the corresponding PTO-1449 and 892 forms from pending prior United States Application Serial No. 09/358,123, which is being relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(d) copies of these references are not provided since they were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in the prior application.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement does not constitute an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(b). Further, Applicants reserve the right to contest that any of these references is prior art against the present application.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attorney for Applicants

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(312) 321-4200

FORM PTO-1449 LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (use several sheets if necessary)	SERIAL NO.	CASE NO.
	To Be Assigned	9281/4596
	FILING DATE	Previously-Assigned GROUP ART UNIT
	Herewith	2652
APPLICANTS: SAITO et al.		

REFERENCE DESIGNATION U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
	A1	5,287,238	02/15/1994	Baumgart et al.		
	A2	5,341,2612	08/23/1994	Dieny et al.		
	A3	5,408,377	04/18/1995	Gurney et al.		
	A4	5,465,185	11/07/1995	Heim et al.		
	A5	5,549,978	08/1996	Iwasaki et al.		
	A6	5,552,949	09/1996	Hashimoto et al.		
	A7	5,576,915	11/1996	Akiyama et al.		
	A8	5,768,066	06/1998	Akiyama et al.		
	A9	5,583,725	12/10/1996	Coffey et al.		
	A10	5,598,308	01/28/1997	Dieny et al.		
	A11	5,701,223	12/23/1997	Fontana, Jr. et al.		
	A12	5,705,973	01/1998	Yuan et al.		
	A13	5,739,987	04/1998	Yuan et al.		
	A14	5,748,399	05/05/1998	Gill		
	A15	5,751,521	05/12/1998	Gill		
	A16	5,768,067	06/1998	Saito et al.		
	A17	5,768,069	06/16/1998	Mauri		
	A18	5,828,529	10/27/1998	Gill		
	A19	5,869,963	02/09/1999	Saito et al.		
	A20	5,871,622	02/16/1999	Pinarbasi		
	A21	5,880,913	03/09/1999	Gill		
	A22	5,910,344	06/08/1999	Hasegawa et al.		
	A23	5,949,622	09/1999	Kamiguchi et al.		
	A24	5,955,211	09/1999	Maeda et al.		
	A25	6,057,049	05/2000	Fuke et al.		
	A26	6,201,673	03/2001	Rottmayer et al.		
	A27	6,157,525	12/2000	Iwasaki et al.		
	A28	6,278,589	08/2001	Gill		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES	NO
	A29	10-154618	06/09/1998	Japan		X	
	A30	10-91921	04/10/1998	Japan		X	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

FORM PTO-1449 LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (use several sheets if necessary)	SERIAL NO. <u>09/358,123</u> To Be Assigned	CASE NO. 9281-3376
	FILING DATE <u>7/20/99</u> ^{Herewith}	GROUP ART UNIT <u>2652</u>
	APPLICANT(S): Masamichi Saito et al.	

REFERENCE DESIGNATION

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
<u>Bm</u>	A1	5,465,185	11/07/95	Heim et al.	360/113	
	A2	5,583,725	12/10/96	Coffey et al.	360/113	
	A3	5,701,223	12/23/97	Fontana, Jr. et al.	360/113	
	A4	5,748,399	05/05/98	Gill	360/113	
	A5	5,768,069	06/16/98	Mauri	360/113	
	A6	5,828,529	10/27/98	Gill	360/113	
	A7	5,871,622	02/16/99	Pinarbasi	204/192.11	
	A8	5,880,913	03/09/99	Gill	360/113	
	A9	5,408,377	04/18/95	Gurney et al.	360/113	
	A10	5,341,2612	08/23/94	Dieny et al.	360/113	
<u>Bm</u>	A11	5,598,308	01/28/97	Dieny et al.	360/113	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO

EXAMINER INITIAL	OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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FORM PTO-1449	SERIAL NO. 09/358,123	CASE NO. 9281/3376
LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	FILING DATE July 20, 1999	GROUP ART UNIT 2652
(use several sheets if necessary)	APPLICANT(S): Masamichi Saito et al.	

REFERENCE DESIGNATION

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS


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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

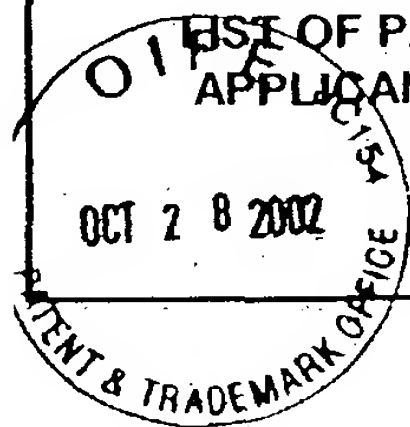
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
					YES	NO
	B5	10-154618	6/9/98	Japan	X	

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EXAMINER <i>B. Smith</i>	DATE CONSIDERED <i>10/3/01</i>
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

FORM PTO-1449 LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	SERIAL NO. 09/358,123	CASE NO. 9281/3376-1
	FILING DATE July 20, 1999	GROUP ART UNIT 2652
	APPLICANTS: SAITO et al.	



FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
<i>Br</i>	C1	10-91921	04/10/1998	Japan	—	x	

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OCT 30 2002

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EXAMINER <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE CONSIDERED 1/21/03
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

FORM PTO-892		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		SERIAL NO. 09/358,123	GROUP ART UNIT 2652	ATTACHMENT TO PAPER NO. 12	
NOTICE OF REFERENCES CITED				APPLICANT(S) Saito et al			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	A	5,705,973	1/1998	Yuan et al	338	32R	
	B	6,201,673	3/2001	Rottmayer et al.	360	324.12	
	C	6,278,589	8/2001	Gill	360	314	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS
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OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
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	U						
EXAMINER Brian E. Miller			DATE October 4, 2001		Form892ccs2106b		
* A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this office action. (See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, section 707.05(a).)							

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Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 09/358,123	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination SAITO ET AL.	
	Examiner Brian E. Miller	Art Unit 2652	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
	A	US-5,552,949	09-1996	Hashimoto et al.	324/252
	B	US-5,768,067	06-1998	Saito et al.	360/327.32
	C	US-6,157,525	12-2000	Iwasaki et al.	360/324.12
	D	US-			
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
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	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
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	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

Notice of References Cited

Application/Control No.

09/358,123

Applicant(s)/Patent Under

Reexamination

SAITO ET AL.

Examiner

Brian E. Miller

Art Unit

2652

Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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	A	US-5,549,978	08-1996	Iwasaki et al.	324/252
	B	US-5,576,915	11-1996	Akiyama et al.	360/113
	C	US-5,768,066	06-1998	Akiyama et al.	360/314
	D	US-5,955,211	09-1999	Maeda et al.	324/252
	E	US-6,057,049	05-2000	Fuke et al.	360/327.32
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	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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	N					
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	S					
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Application/Control No.

09/358,123

Applicant(s)/Patent Under

Reexamination

SAITO ET AL.

Examiner

Brian E. Miller

Art Unit

2652

Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
	A	US-5,949,622	09-1999	Kamiguchi et al.	360/324.12
	B	US-5,739,987	04-1998	Yuan et al.	360/327.32
	C	US-			
	D	US-			
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.

EXPRESS MAIL NO. EL 448 310 104 US

DATE OF DEPOSIT

7/20/99

Our Case No. 9281-3376

Client Reference No. N US98062

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Masamichi Saito et al.)
Serial No. To Be Assigned)
Filing Date: Herewith)
For SPIN-VALVE MAGNETORESISTIVE)
THIN FILM ELEMENT)

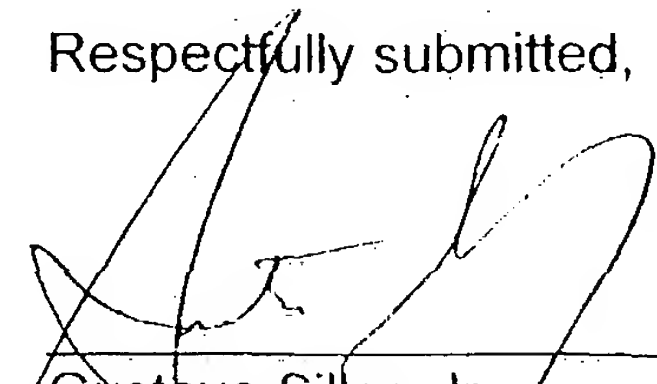
SUBMISSION OF CERTIFIED COPY OF PRIORITY DOCUMENTS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith are certified copies of priority documents Japanese Patent Application Nos. 10-204756, filed July 21, 1998; 10-204763, filed July 21, 1998; and 1-204767, filed July 21, 1998, for the above-named U.S. application.

Respectfully submitted,



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